UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

DEC 21 2000

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

SE-5J

VIA FACSIMILE (312) 238-1264
AND U.S. MAIL

Mr. Scott Harding
Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago
345 East Superior
Chicago, Illinois 60611

RE: Walkover Survey of Parking Lot at 401 East Ohio, Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mr. Harding:

Several mornings during September, 2000, U.S. EPA conducted a radiation walkover survey of the parking lot at 401 East Ohio to determine whether there were any elevated radiation readings at the surface that might indicate the presence of subsurface radioactive materials. Readings ranged from 1,598 counts per 30-seconds to 9,500 counts per 30-seconds. The highest elevated readings that occurred were near a tree on East Ohio Street (9,500 counts per 30-seconds) and near the adjacent high-rise building. The readings adjacent to the high-rise appear to be natural radioactivity associated with the brick of this building. For the readings near the tree we are unable to determine if they are due to thorium contamination or to some other cause.

Our procedure for conducting the walkover survey was to first assess background levels. We held the probe about 6 inches off the ground and walked the entire area along parallel lines about 3 - 4 feet apart. We assessed background levels by looking at the lowest readings and looking for spots and regions of elevated radiation levels. We then took, for the record, 30 second counts, on contact with the ground, at regular intervals (in the center of each parking space and down the centerline of the driveways) to quantify the exposure environment. We also took readings at selected spots where initial readings were distinct from background levels. Again, readings ranged from 1,598 counts per 30 seconds to 9,500 counts per 30 seconds. All readings were on contact.

These survey results, however, do not constitute a warranty or representation by U.S. EPA that there are no hazardous substances on this property.

Within the limits of this surface survey, there is only one elevated location in your parking lot. Although there was only one surface anomaly encountered, shielding by the asphalt and any

fill will reduce count rates and emissions from any underlying radioactive material could be difficult or impossible to measure. None of these areas pose an immediate health and safety concern but the risk for contamination of people and equipment would rise appreciably if the tree was excavated or the asphalt was removed. Moreover, removing the asphalt covering and spreading the soil over a larger area of the parking lot or to other locations could greatly expand the areas of concern.

If you decide to remove the asphalt, contact us prior to its removal so that we may observe your radiation surveillance and sampling for radionuclide identification and quantification or take our own measurements and sampling. Radiation surveillance should be conducted under a health and safety plan with disposal of any radioactive materials at a regulated disposal facility. For your review and information, I have enclosed portions of a generic radiation health and safety plan the U.S. EPA requires to be implemented in designated Streeterville rights-of-ways.

Please be advised that a neighboring parking lot owner removed about 200 truckloads of potentially contaminated material prior to conducting a radiation survey. The radiation survey identified radioactive contamination on-site and off-site. This parking lot property owner has characterized the material disposed at a landfill and found contamination. In addition, construction at the site was shut down until U.S. EPA approved the property owners' health and safety plan and work plan.

Please note the property directly west of you has been shown to be thorium-contaminated, the property southwest of you was recently remediated (approximately 30,000 cubic yards removed) and the property southeast appears to have an anomaly.

If you would like to discuss this matter further, please contact me at (312) 886-3601, or Fred Micke, On-Scene Coordinator, at (312) 886-5123, or Larry Jensen, Health Physicist, at (312) 886-5026. Please direct any legal questions to Mary Fulghum, Associate Regional Counsel, at (312) 886-4683.

Sincerely,

Verneta Simon

Verneta Simon
On-Scene Coordinator

Enclosure

cc: Naren Prasad, City of Chicago - Department of Environment, w/enclosure
Dan White, Kerr-McGee, w/enclosure

bcc: Mary Fulghum C-14J, w/o enclosure
Larry Jensen, SE-5J, w/o enclosure
Derrick Kimbrough, SE-5J, w/o enclosure
Cathleen Martwick, C-14J, w/o enclosure
Fred Micke, SE-5J, w/o enclosure
Linda Nachowicz, SE-5J, w/o enclosure
Debbie Regel, SE-5J, w/o enclosure

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
EMERGENCY RESPONSE BRANCH
Mail Code: SE-5J

FACSIMILE COVER PAGE

PHONE: (312) 353-2318
FAX: (312) 353-9176

DATE: 12/21/00
TO: Dan White
ORGANIZATION: Kerr-McGee
FAX NUMBER: (405)270-3287
FROM: Vernetta Simon
SUBJECT: 401 East Ohio

NUMBER OF PAGES TO FOLLOW (INCLUDING COVER SHEET): 6
MESSAGE:

CONFIRMATION REPORT

12-21-00 12:58P ID: 312 3539176 NAME: USEPA REGION 5

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
EMERGENCY RESPONSE BRANCH
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PHONE: (312) 353-2318
FAX: (312) 353-9176

DATE: 12/21/00
TO: Naeen Prasad
ORGANIZATION: CDLE
FAX NUMBER: (312) 744-6451
FROM: Veeneta Simon
SUBJECT: 401 East Ohio

NUMBER OF PAGES TO FOLLOW (INCLUDING COVER SHEET): 6
MESSAGE:

CONFIRMATION REPORT

12-21-00 12:53P ID: 312 3539176 NAME: USEPA REGION 5

TYPE : TRANSMISSION

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